



TELEVISION YESTERDAY

The possibility of seeing events remote from the observer has been man's dream for centuries. Around 1880 specific proposals were made as to its accomplishment. Only meager results were obtained. About 1925 Jenkins in America and Baird in England succeeded in transmitting low definition pictures without making any major improvements, but they did make use of numerous technical advances. Since then further research in technique and design have made high definition television a reality.

Alexander Edmond Becquerel, in 1839, discovered that light affected the resistance value of selenium. This gave the first photo-electric cell—the means of changing light into electrical currents.

A step forward in television was the invention of the scanning disc by Paul Nipkow in 1884, making possible the use of a single channel for transmission.

It took years of work by such men as John Baird in England and C. Francis Jenkins in this country, to produce a television picture using the Nipkow system.

The basis of all modern electronic television was described by Campbell Swinton in 1911, but again it took years of work by Vladimir Zworykin before this system produced a picture.

The above picture was found in an old scrapbook.

An attached note reads, "Mr. Allen B. Du Mont is seen demonstrating to a group of industrialists a new television set." Dated 1931.

